

**SECRET**  
SECURITY INFORMATION

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FILE NO. 55-7-12-10	SOURCE WEL-7918	DATE OF DOCUMENT 20 Sep 49	ANALYST C [ ]
SUBJECT Arab Government for Palestine			DATE 2 Jan 52
<p><b>PERTINENT INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Further to our No. WEL-7978, of September 17th, the following information, dated September 17th, was obtained by established sources in Cairo from the speakers mentioned.</p> <p>i. According to a member of the Arab Higher Executive, the MUFTI and representatives of the Executive were invited to attend the meeting of the Arab League Political Committee in Alexandria on the 11th of September because of a report, which had been put out by the Arab Higher Executive themselves, that the Jews were planning an attack in force on Jerusalem before the United Nations meeting.</p> <p>ii. The decision to form the provisional Arab Government of Palestine was taken with a view to the predicted Jewish attack. The only opposition to the decision came from the Iraqi delegation.</p> <p>iii. The MUFTI told the meeting he did not himself want to be made President of the new government and suggested the appointment of Ahmad Hilmi Pasha. He added that the latter's appointment should be temporary, pending the setting up of a Constituent Assembly, and that meanwhile the powers of the government should be limited to taking over administrative matters from the armed forces in Arab occupied areas.</p> <p>iv. An official of the Arab League Secretariat remarked later that the decision was regarded as a useful way of saving face before Arab public opinion, which had hitherto waited in vain for any decision on this subject by the Political Committee.</p> <p>v. According to an official of the Idhwan el Mislinin, Hassan el Banua, who was in close touch with the MUFTI during the Alexandria meetings, had planned to go to Palestine to lead the Idhwan volunteers, but the plan had to be postponed because of the seizure of the MUFTI's stores of arms in Egypt. Both El Banua and the MUFTI are now pressing the Egyptian Prime Minister to release these stores, which they believe to be still held by the Egyptians in the Abbassia barracks."</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2008</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THE SUBJECT IN THIS DOCUMENT.</p> <p><b>SECRET</b> SECURITY INFORMATION</p> </div>			
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